

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA TASK FORCE:GQLUMSDEN, JR.:BDF

APPROVED BY NEA TASK FORCE:GQLUMSDEN, JR.

S/S-O:WNEWLIN

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O 060300Z NOV 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

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EXDIS TOSEC 61, ZFF4 RABAT ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION NO. 96

RABAT FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

INFORM CONSULS

VIENNA PASS USDEL MBFR

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT AND DOHA

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

1. CEASEFIRE: FOUR VIOLATIONS REPORTED BY DF:

(A) SMALL ARMS FIRE BETWEEN IDF AND EGYPTIAN SECOND ARMY SOUTH OF KANTARA; (B) SECOND ARMY MINING PARTY BETWEEN LINES FORCED TO RETREAT BY IDF FIRE; (C) AAA FIRE BY SECOND ARMY ON ISRAELI PLANE OVER ISRAELI-HELD TERRITORY; (D) EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY PATROL NEAR AUYUN MUSA ENGAGED IDF BUT WITHDREW AFTER EXCHANGE OF FIRE. EGYPTIAN VERSION GIVEN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AT FRONT IS THAT ISRAELIS ARE CONTINUALLY BREAKING CEASEFIRE IN CENTRAL SECTOR. BOTH SIDES STRESS TENUOUSNESS OF CEASEFIRE. ISRAELIS REPORT ONLY THE FINAL 10 OUT OF A TOTAL OF 125 RELIEF TRUCKS FOR THIRD ARMY REMAIN TO TRANSFER THEIR CARGOES.

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UNTSO PATROLS ATTEMPTING TO GO UP MT. HERMON HAVING DIFFICULTY DUE TO WEATHER. OTHER ISRAELIS AND SYRIANS HAVE OFFERED USE OF HELICOPTERS, WHICH UN HAS REFUSED. THIS IS INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF HOW BOTH SIDES ATTEMPT MAKE

USE OF UN TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITIONS. ISRAELIS WANT UN TO CERTIFY, IN EFFECT, THEIR CONTROL OF AREA, WHILE SYRIANS WANT UN TO VERIFY VALIDITY OF THEIR COMPLAINT OF ISRAELI POST-CEASEFIRE ADVANCES. CORPSES OF ONE ITALIAN AND ONE FRENCH UNTSO OFFICER WHO WERE KILLED OCTOBER 6 HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO UN BY EGYPTIANS. BODY OF ISRAELI LIAISON OFFICER WHO WAS WITH THEM NOT RPT NOT RELEASED. ISRAELIS HAVE HANDED TO ICRC REPS DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS SAID TO SHOW 12 BOUND ISRAELI POWS SHOT BY RETREATING SYRIANS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. DETAILS CARRIED BY THREE ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS TODAY.

2. UNEF: THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT NEPALESE PARTICIPATION IN THE UNEF, NEPALESE UN DELEGATION POSSIBLY HAVING GOTTEN OUT IN FRONT OF THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT ON THIS ONE. AMBASSADOR CARGO REPORTS THE NEPALESE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED AND LIKELY TO DECIDE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, ONCE THE KING REMINDS ALL AND SUNDRY THAT THE DECISION IS HIS TO MAKE. USUN REPORTS INFORMALLY THAT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A PAUSE IN TROOP ADDITIONS TO THE UNEF WHILE ORGANIZATION INGESTS THOSE ALREADY ARRIVED AND CONCENTRATES ON LOGISTICALLY SUPPORTING THEM. ADVANCE LOGISTICS PARTY FROM CANADA IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO ON WEDNESDAY. POLES, MEANWHILE, HAVE DESPATCHED A TEAM TO NEW YORK TO DISCUSS THEIR ROLE IN LOGISTICS SUPPORT. USUN ALSO REPORTS THAT, IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS OVER PAST FEW DAYS ASYG URQUHART HAS EXPRESSED INCREASING CONCERN OVER SOVIET EAGERNESS TO SUPPLY LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO UNEF--AND SO FAR AT NO COST TO UN. MISSION GIVES CREDENCE TO URQUHART'S IMPRESSIONS AND BELIEVES SOVIETS, FOR FIRST TIME, ARE JUMPING HEADFIRST INTO A UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION AND HOPE TO USE IT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

3. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY: BACK IN ISRAEL, MRS. MEIR SAID MONDAY HER WASHINGTON TALKS CLARIFIED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAELI AND U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY, BUT THAT DIFFERENCES, NEVERTHELESS, REMAIN. IN BUCHAREST, ABBA EBAN TALKED IN SECRET

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SECRECY WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, WHILE THERE WAS SPECULATION HE ALSO MET WITH EITHER SOVIET OR HIGH-RANKING ARAB EMISSARY AND POSSIBLY EXAMINED ROMANIAN MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE. SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS TODAY, AND IN PARIS EGYPTIAN SPECIAL ENJOY MOHAMMED EL-ZAYYAT HANDED PRESIDENT POMPIDOU A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SADAT. ZAYYAT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE DISCUSSED WITH FRENCH MOVES FOR A POSSIBLE EUROPEAN ROLE IN SETTLING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. ALGERIAN PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE LEFT KUWAIT FOR SAUDI ARABIA. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI RETURNED TO CAIRO AND REFERRING TO THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE U.S. DURING HIS VISIT SAID IT IS EXTREMELY HONORABLE AND IN THE INTERESTS OF

THE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL AND EGYPT IN PARTICULAR. THIS REPRESENTS A PROBLEM AS FAR AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED. GOLDA MEIR HERSELF SENSED THIS CHANGE BUT HER PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES DID NOT CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE SITUATION.' HE ADDED, 'THE INFORMATION MEDIA--PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION--IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE GREATLY CHANGED AS A RESULT OF WHAT HAPPENED ON 6 OCTOBER.'

4. SOVIET ACTIVITY: TEN SOVIET AIRCRAFT LEFT HELSINKI TODAY AND TEN MORE ARE DUE THERE TOMORROW TO LIFT MAIN CONTINGENT (296 MEN AND EQUIPMENT) OF FINNISH UN TROOPS TO MIDDLE EAST. TASS EXPLAINS U.S. DIPLOMACY AS EXPRESSED BY SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP AS EFFORT BY U.S. TO REPAIR ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND CONSOLIDATE ITS SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED MIDDLE EAST POSITION.' USUALLY AUTHORITATIVE MAGAZINE, AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY, PUBLISHED STORY NOVEMBER 5 WHICH, ACCORDING TO REUTER, SAYS TWO BRIGADES OF SOVIET SCUD SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES, EACH EQUIPPED WITH A NUCLEAR WARHEAD, ARE IN POSITION EAST OF CAIRO POISED TO STRIKE TEL AVIV AND OTHER ISRAELI CITIES.

5. PALESTINIANS: PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULED JOINT MEETING IN BEIRUT EVENING NOVEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING EMERGENCY SESSION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL AND/OR PALESTINIAN POPULAR CONFERENCE TO DETERMINE APPALESTINIAN POSITIONS TOWARD COMING "PHASE.' OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. THERE CONTINUE TO BE INDICATIONS
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THAT SOME MAJOR PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE AT LEAST SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING NEGOTIATIONS AS A VIABLE OPTION.

6. OIL: WE NOW READ OAPEC 25 PERCENT PRODUCTION CUT-BACK AS BASED ON SEPTEMBER PRODUCTION FIGURES AND APPLICABLE TO OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. PRODUCTION ALLOWABLES THEREAFTER TO BE BASED ON NOVEMBER OUTPUT BUT SUBJECT TO MINIMUM 5 PERCENT MONTHLY CUT ANNOUNCED BACK ON OCTOBER 17. EMBARGOED OIL TO U.S., NETHERLANDS AND OTHERS IS RPT IS INCLUDED UNDER 25 PERCENT FIGURE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE218432
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA TASK FORCE:GQLUMSDEN, JR.:BDF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750026-1592
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731167/abqcejok.tel
Line Count: 153
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <06-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION NO. 96
TAGS: PFOR, XF
To: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
NOUAKCHOTT
XMT KAMPALA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005